

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 402

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Cecil Paul Roy of
Huntsville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Cecil Paul Roy of Huntsville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Somerset, Kentucky, on September 13, 1948, Paul Roy demonstrated the utmost integrity throughout his long career as a journalist and newspaper publisher; and

WHEREAS, at the age of four, Paul Roy moved with his family to Oneida. He embarked upon his career in the newspaper business only five years later, selling copies of *Grit* door-to-door in his neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy later made the rounds as a paperboy for the local newspaper, and he also started an independent school newspaper in high school that produced only a single issue before school administrators purportedly "shut it down as an unauthorized activity"; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Paul Roy enlisted in the United States Navy and honorably served in Vietnam as an air traffic controller aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Bennington*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy studied journalism at Tennessee Technological University, where he served as sports editor of the student newspaper in addition to working at the *Herald Citizen* in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from the university in 1974, Paul Roy worked for the *Cleveland Daily Banner* and later for *The Morning Sun*; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Roy returned to his hometown of Oneida and, along with his wife, Deborah, founded the newspaper, *Independent Herald*; and

WHEREAS, through steadfast determination and tireless effort, Paul Roy led the *Independent Herald* to become one of the most award-winning weekly newspapers in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy was also an accomplished historian, who could give a battle by battle account of the Civil War. His book, *Scott County in the Civil War*, was published by the Scott County Historical Society, an organization of which he was a devoted member for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Paul Roy's friendship and counsel were highly valued by all those who were fortunate to have known him, and he dedicated himself to serving the needs of his community in numerous capacities, such as his enthusiastic support of the Museum of Scott County, for which he served as a member of the board of directors, and his authorship of hundreds of articles on local military veterans that he published in his newspaper over the years; and

WHEREAS, despite his many achievements over the course of his forty-five years in the newspaper business, he was reluctant to accept praise for his work, and when asked about his occupation he would say, "I'm just a paper boy."; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Paul Roy is survived by his beloved wife, Deborah; his daughters and sons-in-law, Elizabeth and Eric Sampsel, and Lauren Joy and Daniel Stone; his son and daughter-in-law, Robert Paul and Christina Roy; and six grandchildren: Ethan, Elana, and Emily Sampsel, Andrew and Thomas Stone, and William Paul Roy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Don Woods; his brother and sister-in-law, Kendrick and Mary Lynn Roy; his brother, Philip Roy; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Herschel Paul and Anna Jean Chamberlain Roy, and his sister, Patricia Corpier; and

WHEREAS, Paul Roy leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Cecil Paul Roy, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his many contributions to the people of Tennessee, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our deepest sympathies and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Roy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.